

From: J. Steven Hart
To: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: 1/13/2018 11:59:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Attachments: ATT00001.htm; ATT00002.htm; Bio (Picture) (24 Dec 17) v.3.docx; Ex. 6 Personal Privacy Resume (Dec 24 2017) v.4.docx

How's it going over there?

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Treacy, Dennis" <dtreacy@smithfield.com>
Date: January 12, 2018 at 10:04:04 PM EST
To: Steve Hart <jshart@wms-jen.com>
Subject: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Hi Steve,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Thanks. Dennis

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Date: January 12, 2018 at 7:58:35 PM EST
To: "Treacy, Dennis" <dtreacy@smithfield.com>
Subject: RE: CBC Virginia Director

Here ya go. The resume is

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) I can run just about anything they throw at me. I think my best role would be as a Deputy Administrator for policy, Congressional outreach, etc....

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 7:12 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

Yes

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 4:54 PM, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy wrote:

Looking for something of consequence...but you get that. 😊

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:40 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

I will go to work on this now. We will talk when I return. You would be perfect for EPA.

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 4:29 PM, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy wrote:

The topic was to see if inside EPA Scott Pruitt would like to have me nearby as an assistant administrator for policy...

I would love to get in to see him...

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com]

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:13 PM

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

I will be fully functional starting the 22nd!!

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 3:36 PM, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy wrote:

I'll get back...Thanks. Enjoy your time.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 3:13 PM
To: [REDACTED] **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

We will be here until next Saturday but pick a day and time next week and I will make it work.

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 3:09 PM, [REDACTED] **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** wrote:

Next week?

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 2:54 PM
To: [REDACTED] **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

Scott, My wife and I are vacationing in Florida for a few days. How soon do you want to talk? Dennis

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation

Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 2:46 PM, **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** > wrote:

Dennis,

I would like to chat. What's your cell and a good time to call...

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Treacy, Dennis [<mailto:dtreacy@smithfield.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 2:31 PM

To: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Cc: Ann Swanson <aswanson@chesbay.us>; Adam Pankake (Yaw) <apankake@pasen.gov>; Ann Jennings <AJennings@chesbay.us>; Ann Watts (Throwe) <ann.watts@maryland.gov>; Chad Reichard (Alloway) <creichard@pasen.gov>; David Goshorn <david.goshorn@maryland.gov>; David L. Bulova <DelDBulova@house.virginia.gov>; Diana Carroll (Belton) <diana.carroll@maryland.gov>; Emma Manzi -Admiral- <emma.manzi@navy.mil>; Emmett W. Hanger Jr. <district24@senate.virginia.gov>; Felix Schapiro (Ward) <felix.schapiro@governor.virginia.gov>; Frank W. Wagner <district07@senate.virginia.gov>; Garth D. Everett <Geverett@pahousegop.com>; Gene Yaw <gyaw@pasen.gov>; Guy Guzzone **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**; Guy Guzzone <guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Heather Reim (McDonnell) <hreim@pa.gov>; Jennifer Donnelly <jdonnelly@chesbay.us>; Joanne Throwe <joanne.throwe@maryland.gov>; John Jack Scorby <john.c.scorby@navy.mil>; Judy Brennan (Middleton) <jbrennan@senate.state.md.us>; Keith Gillespie <Kgillesp@pahousegop.com>; Kenya Colbert (Goshorn) <kenya.colbert1@maryland.gov>; Linda Fiorilla (Yaw) <lfiorilla@pasen.gov>; Lisa Daniels <Ldaniels@pa.gov>; Maggie McIntosh **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**; Maggie McIntosh <maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Margaret Ransone <DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov>; Mark Hoffman <mhoffman@chesbay.us>; Mark J. Belton <mark.belton@maryland.gov>; Mathew Stegman (McIntosh) <Matthew.Stegman@mlis.state.md.us>; Matthew Fleming -DNR- <matthew.fleming@maryland.gov>; McDonnell, Patrick <pmcdonnell@pa.gov>; Molly Ward <Molly.Ward@governor.virginia.gov>; P. Michael Sturla <msturla@pahouse.net>; Richard L. Alloway II <alloway@pasen.gov>; Rita Zielonis (Yaw) <rzielonis@pasen.gov>; Russ Baxter <russ.baxter@governor.virginia.gov>; Sarah Diebel <sarah.diebel@navy.mil>; Stacy Gregson (Alloway) <sgregson@pasen.gov>; Tawanna Gaines **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**; Tawanna P. Gaines <Tawanna.Gaines@house.state.md.us>; Thomas Mac Middleton <Thomas.mclain.middleton@senate.state.md.us>;

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Veronica Kasi (Nicki) <vbkasi@state.pa.us>; Warren Elliott

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; John Reynolds

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

>;

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Subject: Re: CBC Virginia Director

Agree

Dennis H. Treacy
President,
Smithfield Foundation
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

On Jan 12, 2018, at 2:29 PM, **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** wrote:

Perfect pick!

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Ann Swanson [<mailto:aswanson@chesbay.us>]

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 2:26 PM

To: Adam Pankake (Yaw) (apankake@pasen.gov) <apankake@pasen.gov>; Ann Jennings <AJennings@chesbay.us>; Ann Swanson <aswanson@chesbay.us>; Ann Watts (Throwe) (ann.watts@maryland.gov) <ann.watts@maryland.gov>; Chad Reichard (Alloway) (creichard@pasen.gov) <creichard@pasen.gov>; David Goshorn (david.goshorn@maryland.gov) <david.goshorn@maryland.gov>; David L. Bulova (DeIDBulova@house.virginia.gov) <DeIDBulova@house.virginia.gov>; Dennis Treacy (dtreacy@smithfield.com) <dtreacy@smithfield.com>; Diana Carroll (Belton) (diana.carroll@maryland.gov) <diana.carroll@maryland.gov>; Emma Manzi -Admiral- (emma.manzi@navy.mil) <emma.manzi@navy.mil>; Emmett W. Hanger Jr. (district24@senate.virginia.gov) <district24@senate.virginia.gov>; Felix Schapiro (Ward) (felix.schapiro@governor.virginia.gov) <felix.schapiro@governor.virginia.gov>; Frank W. Wagner (district07@senate.virginia.gov) <district07@senate.virginia.gov>; Garth D. Everett (Geverett@pahousegop.com) <Geverett@pahousegop.com>; Gene Yaw (gyaw@pasen.gov) <gyaw@pasen.gov>; Guy Guzzone **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** <guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Heather Reim (McDonnell) (hreim@pa.gov) <hreim@pa.gov>; Jennifer Donnelly <jdonnelly@chesbay.us>; Joanne Throwe (joanne.throwe@maryland.gov) <joanne.throwe@maryland.gov>; John

"Jack" Scorby (john.c.scorby@navy.mil) <john.c.scorby@navy.mil>; Judy Brennan (Middleton) (jbrennan@senate.state.md.us) <jbrennan@senate.state.md.us>; Keith Gillespie (Kgillesp@pahousegop.com) <Kgillesp@pahousegop.com>; Kenya Colbert (Goshorn) (kenya.colbert1@maryland.gov) <kenya.colbert1@maryland.gov>; Linda Fiorilla (Yaw) (lfiorilla@pasen.gov) <lfiorilla@pasen.gov>; Lisa Daniels (Ldaniels@pa.gov) <Ldaniels@pa.gov>; Maggie McIntosh [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy] Maggie McIntosh (maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us) <maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Margaret Ransone (DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov) <DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov>; Mark Hoffman <mhoffman@chesbay.us>; Mark J. Belton (mark.belton@maryland.gov) <mark.belton@maryland.gov>; Mathew Stegman (McIntosh) (Matthew.Stegman@mlis.state.md.us) <Matthew.Stegman@mlis.state.md.us>; Matthew Fleming -DNR- <matthew.fleming@maryland.gov>; McDonnell, Patrick <pmcdonnell@pa.gov>; Molly Ward (Molly.Ward@governor.virginia.gov) <Molly.Ward@governor.virginia.gov>; P. Michael Sturla (msturla@pahouse.net) <msturla@pahouse.net>; Richard L. Alloway II (alloway@pasen.gov) <alloway@pasen.gov>; Rita Zielonis (Yaw) (rzielonis@pasen.gov) <rzielonis@pasen.gov>; Russ Baxter (russ.baxter@governor.virginia.gov) <russ.baxter@governor.virginia.gov>; Sarah Diebel (sarah.diebel@navy.mil) <sarah.diebel@navy.mil>; Stacy Gregson (Alloway) (sgregson@pasen.gov) <sgregson@pasen.gov>; Tawanna Gaines [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]; Tawanna P. Gaines (Tawanna.Gaines@house.state.md.us) <Tawanna.Gaines@house.state.md.us>; Thomas "Mac" Middleton (Thomas.mclain.middleton@senate.state.md.us) <Thomas.mclain.middleton@senate.state.md.us>; [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy] Veronica Kasi (Nicki) (vbkasi@state.pa.us) <vbkasi@state.pa.us>; Warren Elliott [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy] Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>
Cc: [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]; John Reynolds [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Subject: CBC Virginia Director

Dear Commission Members,

It is with both excitement and regret that I write to tell you that today, Virginia's governor-elect Ralph Northam announced that our Virginia Director Ann Jennings will serve as his Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources. Ann has notified me of her resignation effective January 26, 2018. Her resignation letter is attached.

It does not surprise me that Northam tapped Ann – she had worked closely with him in the past and is among the most talented, yet humble, of all whom I have worked with. Ann applied her skillset to her Commission post, always working to find a path that resulted in a cleaner, more protected Chesapeake Bay while meeting the diverse interests of the members and our constituency. Ann has reassured me again and again that she will be there for us through the transition. We have big shoes to fill – and fill them we will.

Earlier this week, Ann and I met for an exit interview; we also met with most Virginia members individually, face-to-face. I have asked Ann to prepare a summary of her Virginia responsibilities and pending activities to best prepare the new Director, once they are chosen. Over the next two weeks, while I am in China, Jen, Mark and Marel will work with Ann to ensure that we are prepared to quickly identify strong candidates for the Virginia Director position. We will post the position next week and hold the posting open through February 28.

While Ann is leaving the Commission, I am confident that we will enjoy a strong relationship with the Northam Administration, incoming Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler, and Ann. It is my hope that we will continue to see Ann at our Commission meetings, working side-by-side with Secretary Strickler. If you have any questions about the job posting while I am out of the Country, please contact Jen at 410-263-3420.

Ann

This communication (including any attachments) is confidential and is intended to be privileged pursuant to applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, then you are hereby notified that the dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify Smithfield Foods, Inc. immediately by telephone (+1 757-365-3000) and then delete this communication and destroy all copies thereof.

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Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 2/16/2018 12:44:34 AM
To: J. Steven Hart [jshart@wms-jen.com]
Subject: RE: ABC News reporter call

That is very interesting.

From: J. Steven Hart [mailto:jshart@wms-jen.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 3:02 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: ABC News reporter call

An ABC news reporter called my office with question regarding Scott Pruitt. I did not speak with him- you can assume I will not be calling him back.

Matthew Mosk
c: 202-302-4965
Matthew.mosk@abc.com

Disclaimer

This message, and any attachments to it, are from Williams & Jensen, PLLC and are intended only for the addressee. Information contained herein is confidential, privileged and exempt from disclosure pursuant to applicable federal or state law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution, copying or communication of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email and delete the message and any attachments. Thank you

Message

From: Ebbs, Stephanie [Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]
Sent: 3/29/2018 5:02:54 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: Follow up questions

Hey guys,

Can you provide any more information on the lease or rental agreement between the administrator at the Harts?

Also, did Steve Hart or anyone from Williams & Jensen have a role in setting up meetings or making introductions for the Morocco trip?

Thank you

Stephanie Ebbs
ABC News-Washington
(desk) 202-222-7015
(cell) 202-875-4377
@stephebbbs

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/1/2018 6:48:55 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: APPROVAL: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1 2018 - Preview

I would say if you honestly wanted answers to your questions you wouldn't have sent them to us at 1pm with a 3pm deadline on Easter Sunday when you know we cannot respond to your questions.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 1, 2018, at 2:45 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Sometimes the images come through and sometimes they do not (internal EPA issue). Here is a link to the release as well:

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Once Ryan and Matt approve, we will send this out.

From: EPA Press Office [<mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail19.com>] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1 2018 - Preview



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

This Response Is Also Available At www.epa.gov.

Mr. Lipton -

When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a

friend and paid her for it.

It's inconvenient for your story that Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex and is a healthcare lobbyist with no business in front of the EPA.

It's inconvenient because that doesn't fit the narrative you are trying to write so you look to Vicki Hart's spouse: Steve Hart. Mr. Hart is the president of a firm with at least 180 different clients represented by a variety of people. But the New York Times is asking endless questions about each to create the appearance of a problem where there is no actual problem.

Additionally, during Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Maria, EPA's response was to grant federal fuel waivers to every state and others along the Colonial pipeline so that Americans could easily access gasoline and diesel fuel to help them. But according to your premise, EPA wouldn't have done that on the basis that Pruitt was staying in a condo owned by a Vicki Hart - a healthcare lobbyist.

Again, Administrator Pruitt stayed at a place owned by a friend, paid for it, and moved out when he found a more permanent place for him and his family. This situation has been vetted and approved by career ethics officials at the EPA, yet these questions come in at 1:00 PM ET for a 3:00 PM ET story on Easter Sunday.

I am writing a piece for Monday's paper that will post later today (Friday) that looks at other clients of William R. Jones and centers they had pending before the EPA while Mr. Pruitt was living in the condo co-owned in part by the spouse of the first chairman.

These are not of general use:

FIRST SET OF QUESTIONS: In March 2017, we attacked the EPA issued a consent letter to the State Department not issuing environmental objections to a pipeline project proposed by Enbridge Energy, a William R. Jones client. She was working a Presidential Permit related to a strategy to place an expansion of a pipeline carrying crude oil in the United States from Canada.

EPA in March 2017 gave the Enbridge project an EIS rating from the EPA's website: "Category 1 - Adequate (The staff EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impacts) of the proposed alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. The further analysis or data collection is unnecessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information."

This is how the White House settlement Aug. 2017 Final EIS, issued after the EPA usage:

"The new Presidential Permit would authorize to increase the flow of crude oil and other liquid hydrocarbons through the 3-mile border segment of Enbridge's existing Line 5 pipeline. Enbridge seeks authorization to increase flow through the border segment from the previous design capacity (100,000 barrels per day) to the new design capacity of approximately 180,000 barrels per day for heavy crude oil."

Line 51 (formerly known as the Alberta Clipper pipeline) transports crude oil from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin to Enbridge's existing facilities in the city of Athabasca, Canada to its existing terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. The United States portion of the 34-inch diameter Line 51 pipeline travels approximately 127 miles from the United States-Canada border near Nodda, North Dakota through Minnesota to Enbridge's terminal in Superior, Wisconsin."

How are we getting the story in the matter:

1) That the first time Mr. Pruitt and his daughter was living in the condo owned in part by the spouse of the chairman of William R. Jones was a while at the summer of the estate.

2) That Mr. Pruitt's status as a resident in the real estate of a conflict of interest, prior to his term, was not a real conflict.

3) William R. Jones has any number of other potential appointments approached by lobbyists for William R. Jones related to Enbridge energy or did Mr. Pruitt or any member of his team play any role in crafting the recommendations to the State Department or even reviewing it?

SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS:

Speaker 2: Jones & Jones don't intend to release the records.

In February 2017 and the 2018, since 2017-2018, public records between the two events related to Enbridge. Second one was an explosion with one people killed, 1 injured. First press reports? appear they paid with \$1.1 million fine to state, plus \$1.5 million in private. In March 2018, Gov. Scott Brown's office contacted the state to look at the records related to the explosion. 2.1 million for 2018, plus another \$1.5 million for 2017. I don't see any evidence of federal involvement in this.

QUESTION:

Is the lack of any apparent federal involvement by the EPA related to this matter in any way related to Mr. Pruitt's issues, along with his daughter, as a result of the condo owned by the spouse of the chairman of William R. Jones?

THIRD SET OF QUESTIONS:

Environ. Health in May 2017 declared that it was an settlement with the EPA. EPA prior to Enbridge refinery accident Enbridge "failed, failing to identify hazards, failed to design and construct a safe facility, and failed to mitigate the consequences of a closed workweek release related to a leak that first occurred in April 17, 2015. Additionally, based on an on-site inspection in 2015, the DSH and EPA claim that ENBR failed to include all covered processes in its risk management program and failed to support certain process equipment in a timely fashion. The DSH and EPA are working to ensure all ENBR facilities and conducting actions to resolve the matter. Enbridge failed to an settlement discussions with the DSH and EPA, and the parties have entered into a binding agreement to facilitate settlement discussions."

QUESTION:

William R. Jones has represented Enbridge (see attachments). The first time the EPA handled the matter was influenced by the fact that Mr. Pruitt and his daughter were living in a EIS a single condo owned in part by the spouse of the chairman of this lobbying firm?

FOURTH SET OF QUESTIONS:

1) Some Democrats have called for the EPA Inspector General to re-investigate this matter. Is that appropriate?

2) Several observers have noted that Mr. Pruitt used an arrangement where Mr. Pruitt only paid for engine when he was actually staying in the condo - is not a free stock payment for the seat, after showcasing other records to the Federal Hill area. How do you respond to this?

Thanks so much in advance for your help. Hope you are having a nice weekend!

Eric

Eric Jones

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20460

MAR 30 2013

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Lease Agreement Under the Federal Ethics Regulations Regarding Gifts

FROM: Kevin S. Minoli *KS*
Designated Agency Ethics Official &
Principal Deputy General Counsel

TO: Matthew Z. Leopold
General Counsel

As requested, the Ethics Office reviewed the lease agreement entered into by E. Scott Pruitt (TENANT) and Vicki Hart (LANDLORD) under the federal ethics regulations regarding gifts. The regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics are clear that if a federal employee pays market value for something, it is by definition not a gift under those regulations. 5 C.F.R. 2635.203(b)(10)(excluding from the definition of gift "[a]nything for which market value is paid by the employee"). Market value for rental apartments is commonly thought of in terms of rental cost per month. Under the terms of the lease, if the space was utilized for one 30-day month, then the rental cost would be \$1500, which is a reasonable market value. The lease authorized use by the Administrator and his immediate family, specifically including his spouse and children, and consistent with that provision of the lease his immediate family did stay there when they were in Washington, DC. The lease did not require payment when the property was not utilized. Neither of these two provisions render the rental cost under the lease as something other than market value. Therefore, entering into the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations regarding gifts, and use of the property in accordance with the lease agreement did not constitute a gift as defined in those regulations.

EPA SENIOR CAREER COUNSEL FOR ETHICS, JUSTINA FUGH: “I don’t conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend.” (March 29, 2018)

<!--[if !vml]--><image001.png><!--[endif]-->



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



[Unsubscribe](#)

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/1/2018 5:19:34 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1 2018

Also during the two hurricanes part of EPA's response was to grant federal fuel waivers to every state and others along the Colonial pipeline so that Americans could easily access gasoline and diesel to help them, but I guess EPA wouldn't have done that but for Pruitt paying to stay in Vicki's house for 5 months.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 1, 2018, at 1:13 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

And actually —

Post his email on the EPA website, when it came in, and what he's telling us his deadline is with our response.

Matt, I'd like to get your thoughts of course.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 1, 2018, at 1:10 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

I like it a lot.

On Apr 1, 2018, at 1:09 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

How about

When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington he stayed at a condo owned by friends and paid them for it.

It's inconvenient for your story that Vicki Hart actually owns the complex being a healthcare lobbyist with no business in front of the EPA. It's inconvenient because that doesn't fit the narrative you are trying to write so you look to who Vick is married and because Steve is president of a firm with at least 180 different clients represented by a variety of people you are asking endless questions about each to create the appearance of a problem where there is no actual problem.

The short of the matter is that Administrator Pruitt stayed at a place owned by friends, paid them for it, and moved out when he found a more permanent place for him and his family.

Two prior statements from EPA principal ethics counsel and deputy ethics counsel supports this temporary living quarters matter.

This situation has been vetted and approved despite the narratives you would like to create in your endless "sets of questions."

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 1, 2018, at 12:55 PM, Wilcox, Jahan
<wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lipton, Eric"
<lipton@nytimes.com>
Date: April 1, 2018 at 12:51:24 PM

EDT

To: "Wilcox, Jahan"

<wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>,

"Bowman, Liz"

<Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

**Subject: Story for Monday
(posting Sunday) in NYT re
Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt.
Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1
2018**

Hello Jahan and Liz

Happy holiday to you both.

I am writing a piece for Monday's paper that will post later today (Sunday) that looks at other clients of Williams & Jensen and matters they had pending before the EPA while Mr. Pruitt was living in the condo co-owned in part by the spouse of the firm chairman.

I have four sets of questions here:

FIRST SET OF QUESTIONS: In March 2017, see attached, the EPA issued a comment letter to the State Department not raising environmental objections to a pipeline project proposed by Enbridge Energy, a Williams & Jensen client, that was seeking a Presidential Permit related to a change in planned operation of a pipeline carrying crude oil to the United States from Canada.

EPA in March 2017 gave the Enbridge project an EO-1 rating. From the EPA rating system: "Category 1 - Adequate The draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information"

This is from the State Department Aug 2017 Final EIS, issued after the EPA rating

"The new Presidential Permit would authorize an increase in flow of crude oil and other liquid hydrocarbons through the 3-mile border segment of Enbridge's existing Line 67 pipeline. Enbridge seeks authorization to increase flow through the border segment from the previous design capacity (500,000 barrels per day for heavy crude oil) to the new design capacity of approximately 890,000 barrels per day for heavy crude oil.

Line 67 (previously known as the Alberta Clipper pipeline) transports crude oil from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin near Enbridge's existing facilities in Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to its existing terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. The United States portion of the 36-inch diameter Line 67 pipeline travels approximately 327 miles from the United States-Canada border near Neche, North Dakota through Minnesota, to Enbridge's terminal in Superior, Wisconsin."

Here are my questions for you re this matter:

- 1) Did the fact that Mr. Pruitt and his daughter was living at the condo owned in part by the spouse of the chairman of Williams & Jensen play a role in the outcome of this matter.
- 2) Did Mr. Pruitt's status as tenant in the unit create the appearance of a conflict of interest, even if in your view, this was not a real conflict.
- 3) Was Mr. Pruitt or any member of his team of political appointees approached by lobbyists for Williams & Jensen related to Enbridge matter or did Mr. Pruitt or any member of his team play any role in crafting the recommendation to the State Department or even reviewing it?

SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS

Another Williams & Jensen client is Colonial pipeline. See the attached disclosure.

In Alabama Sept and Oct, 2016, about 500,000 gallons spilled in total between the two events related Colonial. Second one was an explosion with two people killed, 4 injured. From press reports it appears they paid only \$1.3 million fine to state, plus \$1.8 million in projects, in March 2018.

See: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colonial-co-leak-alabama/colonial-pipeline-to-pay-alabama-3-3-million-for-2016-spills-state-official-idUSKCN1GR3F1>. I don't see any evidence of federal enforcement for this.

QUESTION

Is the lack of any apparent federal enforcement by the EPA related to this matter in any way related to Mr. Pruitt's tenure, along with his daughter, as a tenant of the condo owned by the spouse of the chairman of Williams & Jensen?

THIRD SET OF QUESTIONS

Exxon Mobil in May 2017 disclosed that it was in settlement talks with DOJ, EPA over Beaumont refinery incident Exxon Mobil, alleging that the company "failed to identify hazards, failed to design and maintain a safe facility, and failed to mitigate the consequences of a claimed accidental release related to a flash fire that occurred on April 17, 2013. Additionally, based on an on-site inspection in 2013, the DOJ and EPA claim that EMOC failed to include all covered processes in its risk management program and failed to inspect certain process equipment in a timely fashion. The DOJ and EPA are seeking in excess of \$100,000 in penalties and corrective actions to resolve the matter. ExxonMobil is in settlement discussions with the DOJ and EPA, and the parties have entered into a tolling agreement to facilitate settlement discussions."

QUESTION:

Williams & Jensen has represented ExxonMobil (see attachment). Has the way that the EPA handled this matter been influenced by the fact that Mr. Pruitt and his daughter were living in a \$50 a night condo owned in part by the spouse of the chairman of this lobbying firm?

FOURTH SET OF questions:

- 1) Some Democrats have called for the EPA Inspector General to investigate this matter. Is that appropriate?
- 2) Several observers have noted that \$50 a night--and an arrangement where Mr. Pruitt only paid for nights where he was actually staying at the condo--is not a fair market payment for this unit, after examining other rentals in the Capitol Hill area. How do you respond to this.

Thanks so much in advance for your help. Hope you are having a nice weekend

Eric

Eric Lipton
The New York Times
Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office
202 370 7951 mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

<2017_03_23 EPA comment letter.pdf>

<2017 Enbridge Energy LD-2 Disclosure Form.pdf>

<2017_ Colonial Pipeline LD-2 Disclosure Form.pdf>

<2017 EXXON LD-2 Disclosure Form.pdf>

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2018 6:02:02 PM
To: Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
CC: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Right, let's have an in person conversation when we believe we have it all ready to send.

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

I agree. I was just referring to the calling of 4 people disgruntled and she gave us the names. Just my opinion.

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202 306 8830

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:58 PM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

I know, but let her use the names. I don't think putting names out is good.

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:56 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

She has the names. They were in the question

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202 306 8830

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

We've removed all names.

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

I think we need to be very careful categorizing some of these as disgruntled. I do not know what that triggers. I also think there is a question that I learned from Henry that someone else may have been the source of Reggie Allan being named. If so, we do not want to bunch him in this group. Lincoln, I suggest you check quickly with Henry as he has talked with Reggie.

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202 306 8830

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lincoln,

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Matthew Z. Leopold
General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-8040

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>

Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Request for comment please

Matt – please review the below responses. Deadline is 3pm.

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections--Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese--were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2018 2:09:09 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Request for comment please

Matt and Lincoln - can you work together on how to respond.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Friedman, Lisa" <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Date: April 5, 2018 at 10:01:48 AM EDT
To: Jahan Wilcox <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>, "Bowman, Liz" <bowman.liz@epa.gov>, Press <press@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections—Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese—were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

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++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

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++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

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Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2018 10:04:07 PM
To: Bowman, Jennifer [Jennifer.Bowman@FOXNEWS.COM]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Jahan - FOX q about Pruitt EPA security broke down door to lobbyist condo
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Bowman, Jennifer [mailto:Jennifer.Bowman@FOXNEWS.COM]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Jahan - FOX q about Pruitt EPA security broke down door to lobbyist condo

Jahan or Liz,

Hoping to get some insight on the below reporting – can you confirm this event happened? If nothing else, can you send us the statement from Justina Fugh – about the investigation regarding the condo and its use by Pruitt ? Any background info on how/why the investigation came about?

Thank you!

Jennifer Bowman | White House Producer | Fox News Channel
C: 202-251-2791 | C2: 202-412-9197

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/exclusive-pruitts-epa-security-broke-door-lobbyist-condo/story?id=54129080>

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt’s protective detail broke down the door at the Capitol Hill condo where he was living, believing he was unconscious and unresponsive and needed rescue, in a bizarre incident last year that the EPA has for months refused to discuss, according to sources and police radio traffic obtained by ABC News.

The incident occurred in the late afternoon on March 29, 2017 at the Capitol Hill address Pruitt was renting, which was co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist. A Capitol Police officer called 911 at the behest of Pruitt’s security detail, which had tried unsuccessfully to reach him by phone, and by banging on the building’s front door, according to police recordings obtained by ABC News.

“They say he’s unconscious at this time,” the 911 operator is told, according to the recordings. “I don’t know about the breathing portion.”

Responding fire units from a Capitol Hill station house mobilized. “Engine three, Medic two respond to unconscious person,” the radio transmission said.

The protective detail then broke down the building's glass-paneled front door and ascended two flights to Pruitt's \$50-a-night bedroom, where two sources tell ABC News he was found groggy, rising from a nap. It is unclear what led to the panic that caused the response. Pruitt declined medical attention, and a police report was never filed.

The EPA eventually agreed to reimburse the condo owner for the damage to the door, a source familiar with the arrangement told ABC News. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox did not respond to requests for information on the incident or the reimbursement payments.

The previously unreported incident occurred while Pruitt was living at Capitol Hill condo co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist. Vicki Hart and her husband, lobbyist, J. Steven Hart, both confirmed the events, but neither would say how much the damage to the door cost to repair.

The EPA has since reimbursed Pruitt's former landlord, Vicki Hart, for the cost of the door.

ABC News first reported Thursday that Pruitt had lived in the condo in 2017, during his first six months in Washington. The condo is in a prime location – less than a block from the U.S. Capitol complex – and other apartments in the building complex have rented for as much as \$5,000-a-month, according to a source familiar with a neighboring lease.

The EPA allowed [Bloomberg News](#) to review copies of canceled checks that Pruitt paid to the condo owner. The news outlet reported that the checks show varying amounts paid on sporadic dates -- not a traditional monthly "rent payment" of the same amount each month, according to Bloomberg. In all, Pruitt paid \$6,100 over six months to the limited liability corporation for the Capitol Hill condo co-owned by Vicki Hart, whose husband J. Steven Hart is chairman of a top D.C. lobbying firm and who is registered to lobby for several major environmental and energy concerns.

Two sources told ABC News that Pruitt's daughter also used the apartment in 2017 during her tenure as a White House summer intern.

"The rental agreement was with Scott Pruitt," Vicki Hart told ABC News. "If other people were using the bedroom or the living quarters, I was never told, and I never gave him permission to do that."

The EPA did not respond to requests for comment or clarification on the living arrangement with Pruitt's daughter. McKenna Pruitt, now a law student, could not be reached by phone or email.

Wilcox released a statement from EPA Senior Counsel for Ethics Justina Fugh Friday, saying she did not "conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend." Wilcox did not say when Fugh reviewed the matter or what led her to look into it.

Bryson Morgan, who is in private practice and served as Investigative Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives [Office of Congressional Ethics](#), said he thought it raised red flags. "I think it certainly creates a perception problem, especially if Mr. Hart was seeking to influence the agency," Morgan said.

Gift rules prohibit executive branch employees from accepting items of value, Morgan said in an interview prior to the EPA's release of the details. In addition to traditional gifts, those rules apply to favorable terms on a lease.

"It's not just if he is paying market rent," Morgan said. "A short-term lease is expensive. Is he given the ability to end it any day? Is this an arrangement any other person could get on the open market? My assumption would be this situation does not involve the hallmarks of a specific fair market transaction," he said in an interview conducted before the checks were revealed.

The new disclosure comes as [Democrats in Congress](#) are demanding that Pruitt disclose to them more details about his 2017 use of the Capitol Hill home. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, a Virginia Democrat, called on Pruitt to resign over his failure to disclose the rental deal tied to an energy lobbyist.

"As he has done over and over again, he showed contempt for transparency, ethical guidelines, and the public interest," Beyer said. "Pruitt must resign. If he refuses to do so he should be fired immediately."

Hart is the chairman of lobbying firm Williams and Jensen that lobbies on EPA policies like the Clean Air Act, according to its website. The firm also lobbied on issues related to the export of liquefied natural gas and represented Cheniere Energy Inc., which owned the only active Liquid Natural Gas export plant in the United States at the time.

Pruitt traveled to Morocco last December and the EPA said in a press release that liquid natural gas exports were a topic of discussion during that trip.

Last year, Cheniere Energy Inc. reported paying Hart's firm \$80,000.

Hart's firm specifically lobbied on "issues related to the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG), approval of LNG exports and export facilities." The firm also lists on its website that it lobbies on other EPA policies like the Clean Air Act.

The EPA did not respond to ABC News' questions about whether Hart's lobbying firm had any involvement in arranging meetings during Pruitt's trip to Morocco.

Cheniere Energy spokeswoman Rachel Carmichel told ABC News the company ended its relationship with Hart's firm in December 2017. The spokeswoman went on to say Cheniere

was unaware of the relationship between Pruitt and the lobbyist and had not used Hart's firm to have conversations with the EPA.

Another lobbying client of Hart's, the railroad Norfolk Southern, spent \$160,000 last year on lobbying Congress on "issues affecting coal usage, oil production, and transportation, including EPA regulation."

Norfolk Southern also declined to comment when reached by ABC News.

Craig Holman, an ethics specialist at Public Citizen, a non-partisan watchdog group, wrote to the EPA Inspector General Thursday to request an investigation into the rental arrangement. If the rental arrangement was anything other than a market rate deal, he wrote, "it would at least constitute a violation of the federal statutes and executive branch rules prohibiting gifts to covered officials from prohibited sources."

"Since Administrator Pruitt is already involved in allegations of accepting gifts of travel, the question arises whether a sense of entitlement may have led him to violate the gift rules on this rental arrangement as well," Holman wrote.

The head of the nonprofit watchdog group the Environmental Integrity Project and former EPA Director of Civil Enforcement Eric Shaffer called on the EPA's inspector general and Congress to look into the issue.

"Does this explain why Pruitt flew to Morocco to pitch natural gas exports, which isn't really an EPA concern?" Schaeffer wrote in a statement.

The EPA inspector general's office is aware of the report, according to spokesman Jeff Lagda.

The agency's inspector general is already looking into the cost of Pruitt's travel and whether the agency followed all proper procedures.

Ben Florance

Producer – Fox News Washington

(202) 824-6397 (W) / (202) 213-0418 (C)

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to the addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox

News or Fox Business must not be taken to have been sent or endorsed by either of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

Message

From: Greenwalt, Sarah [greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/1/2018 9:02:40 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
CC: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]; Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FINAL APPROVAL DRAFT: Sorry for the emails.

In my opinion, and in case the debate is still ongoing, I would go with a statement/reply to Lipton rather than pushing out a press release. The statement below looks good to me.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2018, at 4:49 PM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Okay, will do.

On Apr 1, 2018, at 4:39 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Liz, please respond to Eric Lipton with this.

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 4:38 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FINAL APPROVAL DRAFT: Sorry for the emails.

I would like to respond with the following, rather than put out a release:

We can provide a
more fulsome answer
to your series of
questions, but not
with only 2 hours
notice on Easter
Sunday.

“What we can say to
you, with respect to
every one of your
questions, is that there
is no connection
whatsoever between
any decision
Administrator Pruitt

has made at EPA and any place he has lived. Any attempt to draw that link is patently false and based on pure speculation and innuendo.

“I would also point out, that references to any kind of deal in your reporting is not based on fact. Please see Friday’s memo from EPA career ethics officials, who determined that living at the residence was not a gift, and in fact is consistent with ethics laws.”

On Apr 1, 2018, at 3:30 PM, Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov> wrote:

I have not had sufficient time to review this. I would not move forward with this right now.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2018, at 3:19 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: EPA Press Office
[mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail20.com] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 3:19 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1 2018 - Preview

This Response Is Also Available At www.epa.gov.

Mr. Lipton - here is EPA's response to your questions.

When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned

friend and paid for it.

It is inconvenient for your story that Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex healthcare lobbyist with no business in front of EPA. It is inconvenient because it does not fit the narrative you are trying to write so you look to the landlord's spouse, Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart is the president of a firm with at least 180 different clients represented by a variety of people. But the New York Times is asking endless questions about each client to create the appearance of a problem where there is no actual problem.

Additionally, your questions regarding Colonial pipeline falsely imply that Mr. Pruitt made decisions regarding fuel waivers during Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Maria to help Colonial pipeline because Pruitt was staying in a condo owned by Vicki Hart, a healthcare lobbyist. The truth is the fuel waiver decisions were made to help Americans easily access gasoline and diesel fuel during two natural disasters.

Again, Administrator Pruitt stayed at a place owned by a friend, paid for it, and moved out when he found a more permanent place for him and his family. This situation has been vetted and approved by career ethics officials at EPA.

If you honestly wanted answers to your questions, you wouldn't have sent them at 1:00 PM with a 3:00 PM deadline on Easter Sunday.

EPA SENIOR CAREER COUNSEL FOR ETHICS, JUSTINA FUGH: "I don't conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible under the rules from a personal friend." (March 29, 2018)

<image001.png>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



[Unsubscribe](#)

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/4/2018 11:08:48 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Interview request

I don't really care about responding to this guy. He's had to print 3 retractions already to stories about Pruitt. This will likely be #4.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 6:21 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Interview request

Should we ignore these AP questions or try to answer? I'm happy to ignore - it's widely known what we think of them and many outlets know we are very accessible.

Pruitt has said he's fine not responding to the AP.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Biesecker, Michael" <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Date: April 4, 2018 at 5:30:26 PM EDT
To: "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request

Jahan,

In light of Administrator Pruitt's recent interviews with conservative media outlets, The Associated Press requests the opportunity to interview him today or tomorrow.

In addition, we request clarification on three statements the administrator made over the last day.

In an interview with Fox News on Wednesday, the administrator denied he had any knowledge of the recent raises proved to Sarah Greenwalt and Millan Hupp. Asked who did approve the raises, Pruitt said "I don't know."

The 1977 provision to the Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the EPA to hire up to people without the approval of the Senate or the White House specifically grants that authority to the EPA administrator. Did he delegate that authority to someone else? Who?

In interviews with the Washington Examiner and The Daily Signal, Pruitt denied that Steven Hart had any business with EPA. Lobbying disclosure reports show Hart is registered as personally lobbying EPA. In addition, Williams and Jensen, the firm of which Hart is chairman and CEO, extensively lobbied EPA in the last year on several regulatory issues, according to disclosure reports.

Pruitt's official schedule, provided to AP through a FOIA request, reflects a March 2017 meeting between the administrator, a lobbyist from Hart's firm and two executives from OGE Energy.

Does the administrator deny the meeting reflected on his calendar occurred? Are the lobbying disclosure reports filed by Williams and Jenson reflecting their lobbying of EPA in error?

On the condo lease, Pruitt said: "My wife was not here. My children were not here. My wife was back at home in Oklahoma until my kid went to college and my child went to law school."

That contradicts the memo from Kevin Minoli you provided over the weekend, which states: "The lease authorized use by the Administrator and his immediate family, specifically including his spouse and children, and consistent with that provision of the lease his immediate family did stay there when they were in Washington, D.C."

Does the administrator now deny his daughter stayed at the condo while she interned at the White House last summer?

I am writing on deadline.

Thanks,

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 10:47 AM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Please give me a call

Jahan,

You have repeatedly suggested that your perspective is not adequately represented in AP copy. But you have repeatedly refused to respond to even basic questions or requests for information, going so far as not even providing copies of agency press releases or notifications of public events. It is difficult to understand how that strategy is productive, and it has not deterred AP from covering your agency.

Let's move forward. I will keep reporting on issues involving EPA for the foreseeable future. You have my numbers.

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Please give me a call

Michael –

I am happy to talk with the Associated Press, but we do not believe we can work with you in good faith. We talked with AP yesterday if any those reporters want to reach out please let me

know. I also chatted with someone AP California folks a few weeks, if she wants to reach out I will give on the phone with her right away.

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Please give me a call

Jahan,

I have a few questions I hope we can talk over about information that I would think you would want to appear in AP copy.

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

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T 202-641-9445
M 202-465-6091

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions: www.ap.org/tips

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"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email.
Thank you.

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2018 9:19:39 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: response to assertions that Hart clients had plenty of business before EPA

Steve and Vicki Hart maintain that they had no client business before EPA especially for 2017, and we have no reason to doubt that. Vicki Hart owns the residence and represents clients in the healthcare field. Steve Hart is the president of a firm which has a number of clients. None of his has business before the EPA.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 5:08 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: response to assertions that Hart clients had plenty of business before EPA

From: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [<mailto:jdlohy1@bloomberg.net>]
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: response to assertions that Hart clients had plenty of business before EPA

EPA press, good evening. I'm sure you're inundated.

We may have a story invoking various Steven Hart clients that had business or interactions with EPA in the last year and a half, even if Hart himself did not disclose lobbying the EPA on their behalf in the same time frame. Said clients include Enbridge and Owens-Illinois, which had a CAA settlement via a subsidiary last year. Critics point to this as evidence Administrator Pruitt/EPA should have steered clear of these clients and suggest that was not done sufficiently to erase possible appearances of impropriety.

Do you wish to respond to this?

Thank you,
Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlohy1@bloomberg.net / jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com
reporterjen@protonmail.com
Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: 202.905.3257
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

Message

From: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2018 7:00:53 PM
To: Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
CC: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Thank you, Matt

From: Leopold, Matt
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:00 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:54 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Matt – see edited responses below.

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for comment please

Matt – please review the below responses. Deadline is 3pm.

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof booth, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections—Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese—were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/11/2018 8:46:42 PM
To: Elvina Nawaguna [elvinanawaguna@cqrollcall.com]; Press [Press@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

“We will respond to Chairman Gowdy through the proper channel.” EPA spokesman, Jahan

From: Elvina Nawaguna [mailto:elvinanawaguna@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

Any response to this (below) letter from Oversight Chairman Gowdy? Does EPA intend to deliver the additional documents?
Working on a 5:30 p.m deadline.
Thanks!

Elvina Nawaguna
Energy and Environment Reporter
CQ Roll Call
1625 Eye St. NW #200
Washington, DC 20006
Cell: 623-521-2236
Desk: 202-650-6597

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **House Oversight Press** <oversightpress@oversightrep.housecommunications.gov>
Date: 11 April 2018 at 15:31
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement
To: elvinanawaguna@cqrollcall.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
PERMALINK

CONTACT
Amanda Gonzalez
202-225-0037

Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

WASHINGTON - Today, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt to follow-up on the Committee's initial request for information related to Administrator Pruitt's official travel. Additionally, the Committee is evaluating a lease agreement between Administrator Pruitt and Ms. Vicki Hart.

Excerpts from the letter:

"...the EPA has failed to produce all the documents requested on February 20, 2018."

"Those requests include, but are not limited to, any documents referring or relating to 'specific, ongoing threats associated with the Administrator's air travel,' which was the stated basis for obtaining first class tickets in a March 20, 2018 letter from EPA Associate Administrator Troy Lyons."

"The April 4, 2018, memorandum raises questions about whether ethics officials who reviewed the lease had access to all relevant information, and whether all applicable ethics rules were considered when those officials concluded the lease agreement complied with federal ethics regulations."

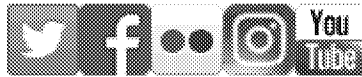
Background:

- On February 20, Chairman Gowdy sent a letter to Administrator Pruitt requesting documents and information related to his official travel, including whether individual waivers were obtained when flying first or business class.

- On March 20, the Committee received documents from EPA responsive to our February 20 request. On April 9, EPA shared additional documents with the Committee during an in-camera review.
- Last week, the Committee obtained memoranda issued by the agency's Designated Ethics Official on March 30 and April 4 related to Administrator Pruitt's condo deal.

Full text of the letter can be viewed [here](#).

###



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Message

From: Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/29/2018 3:56:37 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Administrator's apartment

Jahan will handle.

From: Alex Guillen [mailto:aguillen@politico.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator's apartment

Hi,

ABC reports that Administrator Pruitt lived in a townhouse connected to a natural gas and auto lobbyist, J. Steven Hart. Can you confirm that? Does he still reside at that location? If not, is he currently renting from anyone with business before EPA?

Did EPA ethics officials approve his leasing that living space given the lobbying connections? If so, can I please get a copy of their approval?

Thank you,

Alex Guillén
Energy Reporter
POLITICO *Pro*
(o) 703.341.4619 | (c) 571.839.6243
aguillen@politico.com | [@alexaguillen](https://twitter.com/alexaguillen)

Message

From: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: 4/11/2018 7:41:45 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

Gotcha. Thanks Jahan. Adding to the piece.

-Kevin

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

"We will respond to Chairman Gowdy through the proper channel." EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Kevin Bogardus [mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a piece about Rep. Gowdy's letter to Administrator Pruitt about his condo lease. Does EPA have any reaction to this letter?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 4 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (p)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](#)

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From: House Oversight Press [<mailto:oversightpress@oversightrep.housecommunications.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:32 PM

To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>

Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
[PERMALINK](#)

CONTACT
[Amanda Gonzalez](#)
202-225-0037

Gowdy Questions EPA Administrator Pruitt on Official Travel and Lease Agreement

WASHINGTON - Today, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt to follow-up on the Committee's initial request for information related to Administrator Pruitt's official travel. Additionally, the Committee is evaluating a lease agreement between Administrator Pruitt and Ms. Vicki Hart.

Excerpts from the letter:

"...the EPA has failed to produce all the documents requested on February 20, 2018."

"Those requests include, but are not limited to, any documents referring or relating to 'specific, ongoing threats associated with the Administrator's air travel,' which was

the stated basis for obtaining first class tickets in a March 20, 2018 letter from EPA Associate Administrator Troy Lyons."

"The April 4, 2018, memorandum raises questions about whether ethics officials who reviewed the lease had access to all relevant information, and whether all applicable ethics rules were considered when those officials concluded the lease agreement complied with federal ethics regulations."

Background:

- On February 20, Chairman Gowdy sent a letter to Administrator Pruitt requesting documents and information related to his official travel, including whether individual waivers were obtained when flying first or business class.
- On March 20, the Committee received documents from EPA responsive to our February 20 request. On April 9, EPA shared additional documents with the Committee during an in-camera review.
- Last week, the Committee obtained memoranda issued by the agency's Designated Ethics Official on March 30 and April 4 related to Administrator Pruitt's condo deal.

Full text of the letter can be viewed [here](#).

###



<https://oversight.house.gov/>,
2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

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Sent by oversightpress@oversightrep.housecommunications.gov

Message

From: Slattery, Denis [DSLATTERY@NYDAILYNEWS.COM]
Sent: 3/30/2018 4:18:59 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Administrator Pruitt condo

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out regarding the reports about Administrator Pruitt's use of a condo owned by the wife of energy lobbyist J. Steven Hart.

Saw several statements released by spokesman Jahan Wilcox about the lease and agreement and would like to include them in our story.

Could you also confirm that EPA Senior Counsel for Ethics, Justina Fugh, which said she did not conclude that the condo was a prohibited gift.

Regards,
Denis

Denis Slattery
New York Daily News
o: 212-210-1745
c: 917-607-4915
@slatterynydn

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2018 10:02:19 PM
To: Zahra Hirji [zahra.hirji@buzzfeed.com]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Media Request: Comment on Pruitt townhouse
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Zahra Hirji [mailto:zahra.hirji@buzzfeed.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Request: Comment on Pruitt townhouse

I wanted to follow up on this request. I also to see if the EPA knows if and how much Pruitt's daughter paid for the apartment, and if the agency has reached back out to their ethics lawyer Fugh to consider this. I'm also reaching out to see a copy of Pruitt's lease and the 6 receipts, which have been shared with several other publications.

Also, Fugh told me she was not given information about Pruitt's daughter last night when she made her first determination. Did EPA have that information already at that time, and if so, why wasn't that shared with the lawyer?

Also, what information was relayed to Fugh about the nature of the relationship between Pruitt and the Hart family.

Thanks,
Zahra

On Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 1:39 PM, Zahra Hirji <zahra.hirji@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

I wanted to follow up on this request.

Thanks,
Zahra

On Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 11:50 AM, Zahra Hirji <zahra.hirji@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

Hi Liz,

I'm reaching out for BuzzFeed News about the ABC News story this morning that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt lived in a townhouse own by the wife of an energy lobbyist. Can the EPA confirm this? How much was Pruitt paying for the apartment? Can the EPA comment on this news, and questions about where Pruitt living there could be classified as a gift or an ethical breach? Is Pruitt still living there, and if not how long was he at this DC townhouse?

I am on deadline.

Best,
Zahra

Zahra Hirji
Reporter
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Office: (310) 307-3838
Cell: (202) 352-0557
Zahra.Hirji@buzzfeed.com
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--

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Reporter
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Office: (310) 307-3838
Cell: (202) 352-0557
Zahra.Hirji@buzzfeed.com
@zhirji28

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2018 12:47:07 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]; Pace, Julie [JPace@ap.org]; Feldman, Carole [CFeldman@ap.org]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

See attachment along with the two statements below.

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“I don’t conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend.” - EPA Career Senior Counsel for Ethics, Justina Fugh (03/29/18)

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 7:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Pruitt condo

Jahan,

Please provide on-the-record responses to the following

- 1) On what basis is EPA determining that \$1,500 a month is a market rate for a two bedroom in that neighborhood?
- 2) Since Administrator Pruitt was only paying for nights he occupied the unit, did his actual payments total \$1,500 for any of the months included in the six month rental period?
- 3) Did Administrator Pruitt or his daughter make additional payments to cover her use of the second bedroom?
- 4) Did EPA pay for the the use of the downstairs unit in the building by the administrator’s security detail, or was that also covered by Pruitt’s \$50 a night?
- 5) Did EPA pay for security enhancements to the property (Electronic locks on doors, surveillance camera on the front of the building, etc.)?
- 6) What was the cost of the door and installation after the March 2017 incident where Pruitt’s security detail busted into the unit?
- 7) It does not appear the units at 223 C St have been publicly advertised for rent since the property last sold 5 years ago. How did Administrator Pruitt come to rent the property from the Harts? Did they offer it to him, or did he ask them?

Thanks,

Michael

Thanks,

Michael

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 6:13:44 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael; Pace, Julie; Feldman, Carole
Cc: Bowman, Liz; Press
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 1:02 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Seeking comment once again, including on whether the administrator’s daughter was staying in the second room.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 3:57 PM
To: 'Bowman, Liz' <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Checking back on this.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt condo

Liz, Jahan,

AP will be reporting on administrator Pruitt’s occupancy of the condo at 223 C St. NE in Capitol Hill and who owns that property. Can you provide any comment on Pruitt’s relationship with the Harts and how he came to live at their property? Also, does he pay a market-rate rent?

This issue is going to receive a high level of scrutiny. I would urge you to provide on the-record comment.

Happy to talk by phone if that is your preference,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

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M 202-465-6091

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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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Message

From: Hassell, Emily [hassell.emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2018 7:35:23 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Media inquiry

Hi all –

Reporter left a voicemail on the OMR line requesting the same information. Just a heads up.

From: Josh Israel [mailto:jisrael@americanprogress.org]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Media inquiry

My name is Josh Israel and I'm a reporter with ThinkProgress.

I see in the Bloomberg and ABC News reports today on Administrator Pruitt's rental agreement that he had rented from an LLC co-owned by Vicki Hart and that the EPA had provided the outlets with the agreement and payment information.

Can you tell me what the name of that LLC is?

Thanks,
Josh Israel

Josh Israel
Senior Investigative Reporter, ThinkProgress.org
[202-478-5317](tel:202-478-5317)
jisrael@americanprogress.org

Message

From: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Sent: 4/5/2018 9:10:30 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: reaction - J Steven Hart's name crossed off on lease

Thank you.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net / jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com
reporterjen@protonmail.com
Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: 202.905.3257
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

From: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov At: 04/05/18 17:09:55
To: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Press@epa.gov
Subject: RE: reaction - J Steven Hart's name crossed off on lease

As we have always said, Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this unit.

Background – It's a lease they provided to Pruitt to sign.

From: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: reaction - J Steven Hart's name crossed off on lease

Additionally, do you have any context, comment or information you can share with regard to why the name on the lease attached as an exhibit to the April 4 ethics memo was originally J. Steven Hart, and it was crossed off with Vicki Hart's name written in?

Thank you,

Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlohy1@bloomberg.net / jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com
reporterjen@protonmail.com
Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: 202.905.3257
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2018 9:18:49 PM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHC [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: a time-sensitive request, on both travel and housing matters
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

FYI ...

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 4:33 PM
To: 'Eilperin, Juliet' <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: a time-sensitive request, on both travel and housing matters

Answers in bold.

From: Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: a time-sensitive request, on both travel and housing matters

Dear Liz and Jahan,

Brady and I have continued to report on a few travel and housing-related issues concerning the Administrator, and we wanted to run a few questions by you. We aim to put a story online today—ideally in the early afternoon—and then run it in print tomorrow, so we wanted to get them over to you ASAP. Here they are, listed in order of importance:

We understand that Pruitt's aides briefly considered last year retaining a private jet on a month-to-month basis for the Administrator, at a cost of roughly \$100,000 per month. There were initial discussions between NetJets and EPA staff to this effect, and we understand that Millan Hupp was involved with these discussions. But due to the cost, and ongoing discussion over the cost of Cabinet members' travel, this idea was dropped. We would like to see if you would like to comment on this, and offer any details, such as whether the Administrator initially raised the idea of leasing a private jet.

"This is not news. EPA's CFO regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

We also understand that Millan Hupp helped scout out housing for Mr. Pruitt after he had to leave his first place on Capitol Hill. We would like to clarify whether any of the apartment/house hunting took place during Ms. Hupp's work hours (since we believe that some of it did) or whether it was all during her personal time. As we understand it, Ms. Hupp was working with Capital Park Realty, and that some of it involved looking for a possible house to buy, as well as just apartment rentals.

"This is not news. The notion that government resources were used to assist in finding housing is categorically false. Administrator Pruitt and his wife looked at numerous housing options." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

In terms of the evaluation that EPA's ethics officer gave late last week about Mr. Pruitt's rental, can you provide a little more context on what went into her evaluation? In other words, did she examine apartment rental comps in that area, and was she factoring in the fact that his daughter stayed there as well?

We are both in the office today. My only commitment out of the office is a 12:15 pm lunch, so between 12:15 and 1:30 pm you might want to call Brady at his desk, or call my cell.

Rental Comps Question: "Yes." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Factoring Immediate Family: "Yes." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox
(Additionally please see the attachment.)

Best,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post
Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com
(O) 202-334-7774
(C) 202-302-3663
@eilperin

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2018 8:33:22 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]; Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: a time-sensitive request, on both travel and housing matters
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Answers in bold.

From: Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: a time-sensitive request, on both travel and housing matters

Dear Liz and Jahan,

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"This is not news. EPA's CFO regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient as it was advertised and continued to fly commercial." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

We also understand that Millan Hupp helped scout out housing for Mr. Pruitt after he had to leave his first place on Capitol Hill. We would like to clarify whether any of the apartment/house hunting took place during Ms. Hupp's work hours (since we believe that some of it did) or whether it was all during her personal time. As we understand it, Ms. Hupp was working with Capital Park Realty, and that some of it involved looking for a possible house to buy, as well as just apartment rentals.

"This is not news. The notion that government resources were used to assist in finding housing is categorically false. Administrator Pruitt and his wife looked at numerous housing options." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

In terms of the evaluation that EPA's ethics officer gave late last week about Mr. Pruitt's rental, can you provide a little more context on what went into her evaluation? In other words, did she examine apartment rental comps in that area, and was she factoring in the fact that his daughter stayed there as well?

We are both in the office today. My only commitment out of the office is a 12:15 pm lunch, so between 12:15 and 1:30 pm you might want to call Brady at his desk, or call my cell.

Rental Comps Question: “Yes.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Factoring Immediate Family: “Yes.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox
(Additionally please see the attachment.)

Best,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post
Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com
(O) 202-334-7774
(C) 202-302-3663
@eilperin

In terms of the evaluation that EPA’s ethics officer gave late last week about Mr. Pruitt’s rental, can you provide a little more context on what went into her evaluation? In other words, did she examine apartment rental comps in that area, and was she factoring in the fact that his daughter stayed there as well?

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2018 10:19:04 PM
To: Mosk, Matthew [Matthew.Mosk@abc.com]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
CC: Ebbs, Stephanie [Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]; Santucci, John T. [John.T.Santucci@abc.com]
Subject: RE: Questions
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Mosk, Matthew [mailto:Matthew.Mosk@abc.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com>; Santucci, John T. <John.T.Santucci@abc.com>
Subject: Questions

Jahan –

I wonder if you could provide clarity on the rental arrangement with Mr. Pruitt?

We understand that EPA has told reporters that Mr. Pruitt rented a single room at the condo. But now we are hearing that Mr. Pruitt’s daughter lived in the unit while working as a White House intern. And that she cooked him breakfast every morning.

Who paid for the use of a second bedroom and use of common areas? Or was that part of the \$50/night room rate?

I would really appreciate if you or Liz could please give me a call to clear this up.

Many thanks,

Matt

Matthew Mosk
Senior Producer, ABC News Investigations
Washington Bureau
matthew.mosk@abc.com
c. 202-302-4965

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2018 11:17:15 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press Statements Regarding the Friday Memo

Thanks .. wanted to make sure as I did not see you on the chain

Please let me know if I can help in any way

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 6:54 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Statements Regarding the Friday Memo

Thank you. I'm aware and spoke to Kevin. I've worked closely with them both to ensure they are comfortable. Will continue to do that. It's important to me.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 3, 2018, at 6:50 AM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Minoli, Kevin" <Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov>
Date: April 2, 2018 at 10:49:21 PM EDT
To: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Leopold, Matt" <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>, "Fugh, Justina" <Fugh.Justina@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Statements Regarding the Friday Memo

Hi Folks- I want to make sure that whenever the agency is referring to the memo that I wrote on Friday we are referring to it in a way that is consistent with what it does and does not indicate that the memo does more than it did.

Today was the first day where I saw articles asking about specific actions the agency or the Administrator may have taken that have some alleged or real connection to the people were connected to the apartment. The memo from Friday in no way speaks to those actions, either by in endorsing them or calling them in the question. The memo addressed only the questions of whether the act of signing the lease or living in the space as described in the lease amounted to a prohibited gift. I stand behind my conclusion they were not.

The ethics rules and obligations continue to apply to any action the agency and the Administrator has taken or will take, however, and the fact that he has entered into a lease with Vicki Hart on behalf of 233C LLC may or may not be relevant to understanding how the ethics rules apply to any particular action. We have not been asked to advise on any particular action that has been taken or provide guidance on future actions, and so the memo cannot be cited in response to questions raised about actions other than signing the lease and living in the space consistent with the lease.

Again, I am happy to work with folks on specific statements as they arise or on a generic one that can be used whenever questions like these come in. Let me know how to help with those if you are interested.

Thanks, Kevin

Pruitt Had a \$50-a-Day Condo Linked to Lobbyists. Their Client's Project Got Approved.

The New York Times

The E.P.A. chief was using an apartment partly owned by the wife of the chairman of the lobbying firm as its client sought the agency's sign off on a pipeline project. [Read the full story](#)

Shared from [Apple News](#)

Kevin S. Minoli
Principal Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
US Environmental Protection Agency
Main Office Line: 202-564-8040

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/1/2018 7:57:35 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Subject: UPDATED ...

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: EPA Press Office [mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail20.com] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 3:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m.
April 1 2018 - Preview

This Response Is Also Available At www.epa.gov.

Mr. Lipton - here is EPA's response to your questions.

When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a friend and paid for it.

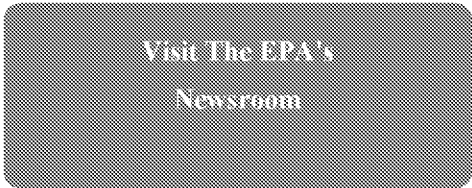
It is inconvenient for your story that Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this condo and is a healthcare lobbyist with no business in front of EPA. It is inconvenient because that does not fit the narrative you are trying to write so you look to the landlord's spouse: Steve Hart. Mr. Hart is the president of a firm with at least 180 different clients represented by a variety of people. But the New York Times is asking endless questions about each client to create the appearance of a problem where there is no actual problem.

Additionally, your questions regarding Colonial pipeline would imply that Pruitt made decisions regarding fuel waivers as a result of his living arrangement. That is nonsense, fuel waivers during Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Maria were made to help Americans easily access gasoline and diesel fuel during two natural disasters.

Again, Administrator Pruitt stayed at a place owned by a friend, paid for it, and moved out when he found a more permanent place for him and his family. This situation has been vetted and approved by career ethics officials at EPA.

If you honestly wanted answers to your questions, you wouldn't have sent them to us at 1:00 PM with a 3:00 PM deadline on Easter Sunday.

EPA SENIOR CAREER COUNSEL FOR ETHICS, JUSTINA FUGH: “I don’t conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend.” (March 29, 2018)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



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Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
Sent: 4/1/2018 7:28:44 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FINAL APPROVAL DRAFT: Sorry for the emails.

Also it's Vick is the owner of this condo. Not complex.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Apr 1, 2018, at 3:19 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

LINK: <http://createsend.com/t/d-10584A0EC6F0AA142540EF23F30FEDED>

From: EPA Press Office [<mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail20.com>] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 3:19 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Story for Monday (posting Sunday) in NYT re Williams & Jensen and Mr. Pruitt. Response needed by 3 p.m. April 1 2018 - Preview

This Response Is Also Available At www.epa.gov.

Mr. Lipton - here is EPA's response to your questions.

When Administrator Pruitt arrived in Washington, he stayed at a condo owned by a friend and paid for it.

It is inconvenient for your story that Vicki Hart is the sole owner of this complex and is a healthcare lobbyist with no business in front of EPA. It is inconvenient because that does not fit the narrative you are trying to write so you look to the landlord's spouse: Steve Hart. Mr. Hart is the president of a firm with at least 180 different clients represented by a variety of people. But the New York Times is asking endless questions about each client to create the appearance of a problem where there is no actual problem.

Additionally, your questions regarding Colonial pipeline falsely imply that Mr. Pruitt made decisions regarding fuel waivers during Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Maria, to help Colonial pipeline because Pruitt was staying in a condo owned by Vicki Hart - a healthcare lobbyist. The truth is the fuel waiver decisions was made to help Americans easily access gasoline and diesel fuel during two natural disasters.

Again, Administrator Pruitt stayed at a place owned by a friend, paid for it, and moved out when he found a more permanent place for him and his family. This situation has been vetted and approved by career ethics officials at EPA.

If you honestly wanted answers to your questions, you wouldn't have sent them to us at 1:00 PM with a 3:00 PM deadline on Easter Sunday.

.....

EPA SENIOR CAREER COUNSEL FOR ETHICS, JUSTINA FUGH: "I don't conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend." (March 29, 2018)

.....

<!--[if !vml]--><image001.png><!--[endif]-->

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1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/2/2018 12:47:03 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]; Pace, Julie [JPace@ap.org]; Feldman, Carole [CFeldman@ap.org]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

See attachment along with the two statements below.

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“I don’t conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend.” - EPA Career Senior Counsel for Ethics, Justina Fugh (03/29/18)

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 7:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Pruitt condo

Jahan,

Please provide on-the-record responses to the following

- 1) On what basis is EPA determining that \$1,500 a month is a market rate for a two bedroom in that neighborhood?
- 2) Since Administrator Pruitt was only paying for nights he occupied the unit, did his actual payments total \$1,500 for any of the months included in the six month rental period?
- 3) Did Administrator Pruitt or his daughter make additional payments to cover her use of the second bedroom?
- 4) Did EPA pay for the the use of the downstairs unit in the building by the administrator’s security detail, or was that also covered by Pruitt’s \$50 a night?
- 5) Did EPA pay for security enhancements to the property (Electronic locks on doors, surveillance camera on the front of the building, etc.)?
- 6) What was the cost of the door and installation after the March 2017 incident where Pruitt’s security detail busted into the unit?
- 7) It does not appear the units at 223 C St have been publicly advertised for rent since the property last sold 5 years ago. How did Administrator Pruitt come to rent the property from the Harts? Did they offer it to him, or did he ask them?

Thanks,

Michael

Thanks,

Michael

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 6:13:44 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael; Pace, Julie; Feldman, Carole
Cc: Bowman, Liz; Press
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 1:02 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Seeking comment once again, including on whether the administrator’s daughter was staying in the second room.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 3:57 PM
To: 'Bowman, Liz' <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt condo

Checking back on this.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt condo

Liz, Jahan,

AP will be reporting on administrator Pruitt's occupancy of the condo at 223 C St. NE in Capitol Hill and who owns that property. Can you provide any comment on Pruitt's relationship with the Harts and how he came to live at their property? Also, does he pay a market-rate rent?

This issue is going to receive a high level of scrutiny. I would urge you to provide on-the-record comment.

Happy to talk by phone if that is your preference,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

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From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/30/2018 10:04:05 PM
To: Bowman, Jennifer [Jennifer.Bowman@FOXNEWS.COM]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Jahan - FOX q about Pruitt EPA security broke down door to lobbyist condo
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Bowman, Jennifer [mailto:Jennifer.Bowman@FOXNEWS.COM]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Jahan - FOX q about Pruitt EPA security broke down door to lobbyist condo

Jahan or Liz,

Hoping to get some insight on the below reporting – can you confirm this event happened? If nothing else, can you send us the statement from Justina Fugh – about the investigation regarding the condo and its use by Pruitt ? Any background info on how/why the investigation came about?

Thank you!

Jennifer Bowman | White House Producer | Fox News Channel
C: 202-251-2791 | C2: 202-412-9197

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/exclusive-pruitts-epa-security-broke-door-lobbyist-condo/story?id=54129080>

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt’s protective detail broke down the door at the Capitol Hill condo where he was living, believing he was unconscious and unresponsive and needed rescue, in a bizarre incident last year that the EPA has for months refused to discuss, according to sources and police radio traffic obtained by ABC News.

The incident occurred in the late afternoon on March 29, 2017 at the Capitol Hill address Pruitt was renting, which was co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist. A Capitol Police officer called 911 at the behest of Pruitt’s security detail, which had tried unsuccessfully to reach him by phone, and by banging on the building’s front door, according to police recordings obtained by ABC News.

“They say he’s unconscious at this time,” the 911 operator is told, according to the recordings. “I don’t know about the breathing portion.”

Responding fire units from a Capitol Hill station house mobilized. “Engine three, Medic two respond to unconscious person,” the radio transmission said.

The protective detail then broke down the building's glass-paneled front door and ascended two flights to Pruitt's \$50-a-night bedroom, where two sources tell ABC News he was found groggy, rising from a nap. It is unclear what led to the panic that caused the response. Pruitt declined medical attention, and a police report was never filed.

The EPA eventually agreed to reimburse the condo owner for the damage to the door, a source familiar with the arrangement told ABC News. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox did not respond to requests for information on the incident or the reimbursement payments.

The previously unreported incident occurred while Pruitt was living at Capitol Hill condo co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist. Vicki Hart and her husband, lobbyist, J. Steven Hart, both confirmed the events, but neither would say how much the damage to the door cost to repair.

The EPA has since reimbursed Pruitt's former landlord, Vicki Hart, for the cost of the door.

ABC News first reported Thursday that Pruitt had lived in the condo in 2017, during his first six months in Washington. The condo is in a prime location – less than a block from the U.S. Capitol complex – and other apartments in the building complex have rented for as much as \$5,000-a-month, according to a source familiar with a neighboring lease.

The EPA allowed [Bloomberg News](#) to review copies of canceled checks that Pruitt paid to the condo owner. The news outlet reported that the checks show varying amounts paid on sporadic dates -- not a traditional monthly "rent payment" of the same amount each month, according to Bloomberg. In all, Pruitt paid \$6,100 over six months to the limited liability corporation for the Capitol Hill condo co-owned by Vicki Hart, whose husband J. Steven Hart is chairman of a top D.C. lobbying firm and who is registered to lobby for several major environmental and energy concerns.

Two sources told ABC News that Pruitt's daughter also used the apartment in 2017 during her tenure as a White House summer intern.

"The rental agreement was with Scott Pruitt," Vicki Hart told ABC News. "If other people were using the bedroom or the living quarters, I was never told, and I never gave him permission to do that."

The EPA did not respond to requests for comment or clarification on the living arrangement with Pruitt's daughter. McKenna Pruitt, now a law student, could not be reached by phone or email.

Wilcox released a statement from EPA Senior Counsel for Ethics Justina Fugh Friday, saying she did not "conclude that this is a prohibited gift at all. It was a routine business transaction and permissible even if from a personal friend." Wilcox did not say when Fugh reviewed the matter or what led her to look into it.

Bryson Morgan, who is in private practice and served as Investigative Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives [Office of Congressional Ethics](#), said he thought it raised red flags. "I think it certainly creates a perception problem, especially if Mr. Hart was seeking to influence the agency," Morgan said.

Gift rules prohibit executive branch employees from accepting items of value, Morgan said in an interview prior to the EPA's release of the details. In addition to traditional gifts, those rules apply to favorable terms on a lease.

"It's not just if he is paying market rent," Morgan said. "A short-term lease is expensive. Is he given the ability to end it any day? Is this an arrangement any other person could get on the open market? My assumption would be this situation does not involve the hallmarks of a specific fair market transaction," he said in an interview conducted before the checks were revealed.

The new disclosure comes as [Democrats in Congress](#) are demanding that Pruitt disclose to them more details about his 2017 use of the Capitol Hill home. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, a Virginia Democrat, called on Pruitt to resign over his failure to disclose the rental deal tied to an energy lobbyist.

"As he has done over and over again, he showed contempt for transparency, ethical guidelines, and the public interest," Beyer said. "Pruitt must resign. If he refuses to do so he should be fired immediately."

Hart is the chairman of lobbying firm Williams and Jensen that lobbies on EPA policies like the Clean Air Act, according to its website. The firm also lobbied on issues related to the export of liquefied natural gas and represented Cheniere Energy Inc., which owned the only active Liquid Natural Gas export plant in the United States at the time.

Pruitt traveled to Morocco last December and the EPA said in a press release that liquid natural gas exports were a topic of discussion during that trip.

Last year, Cheniere Energy Inc. reported paying Hart's firm \$80,000.

Hart's firm specifically lobbied on "issues related to the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG), approval of LNG exports and export facilities." The firm also lists on its website that it lobbies on other EPA policies like the Clean Air Act.

The EPA did not respond to ABC News' questions about whether Hart's lobbying firm had any involvement in arranging meetings during Pruitt's trip to Morocco.

Cheniere Energy spokeswoman Rachel Carmichel told ABC News the company ended its relationship with Hart's firm in December 2017. The spokeswoman went on to say Cheniere

was unaware of the relationship between Pruitt and the lobbyist and had not used Hart's firm to have conversations with the EPA.

Another lobbying client of Hart's, the railroad Norfolk Southern, spent \$160,000 last year on lobbying Congress on "issues affecting coal usage, oil production, and transportation, including EPA regulation."

Norfolk Southern also declined to comment when reached by ABC News.

Craig Holman, an ethics specialist at Public Citizen, a non-partisan watchdog group, wrote to the EPA Inspector General Thursday to request an investigation into the rental arrangement. If the rental arrangement was anything other than a market rate deal, he wrote, "it would at least constitute a violation of the federal statutes and executive branch rules prohibiting gifts to covered officials from prohibited sources."

"Since Administrator Pruitt is already involved in allegations of accepting gifts of travel, the question arises whether a sense of entitlement may have led him to violate the gift rules on this rental arrangement as well," Holman wrote.

The head of the nonprofit watchdog group the Environmental Integrity Project and former EPA Director of Civil Enforcement Eric Shaffer called on the EPA's inspector general and Congress to look into the issue.

"Does this explain why Pruitt flew to Morocco to pitch natural gas exports, which isn't really an EPA concern?" Schaeffer wrote in a statement.

The EPA inspector general's office is aware of the report, according to spokesman Jeff Lagda.

The agency's inspector general is already looking into the cost of Pruitt's travel and whether the agency followed all proper procedures.

Ben Florance

Producer – Fox News Washington

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